GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:478
ANSWERED ON:28.02.2008
RAILWAY ACCIDENTS AND BOMB BLASTS IN RAILWAYS
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Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of incidents of blasts in trains reported during 2007-08 so far zone-wise;

(b) the details of railway property damaged in such blasts during the said period;

(c) the number of persons injured/ killed in each of such incidents during the said period;

(d) the number of victims of such accidents to whom compensation has been made;

(e) whether there has been an inordinate delay in the payment of compensation to victims of rail accidents;

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Railways to make such payment in a time bound manner; and

(g) the details of steps taken by the Railways to check the recurrence of such incidents?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI R. VELU)

(a)to(c): Yes, Sir. Two incidents of bomb blast in passenger carrying trains were reported from April, 2007 to 2008 (till date). The details are as under:-

Railway	No. of cases	Value of Property damaged	Persons	
			Killed	Injured
East Coast Railway	1	Rs.33,77,666/-	-	-
Northeast Frontier Railway	1	Not yet ascertained	5	4

(d); Compensation is paid only after a decree is awarded on a claim filed in this regard in the Railway Claims Tribunal. So far, no decree has been awarded.

(e)&(f): Accident compensation claims are adjudicated by Railway Claims Tribunal.As this is a quasi-judicial body, no time frame can be fixed for settlement of pending claims cases.However, once a claim has been decreed, the Railways have been instructed to ensure that cheques of the decretal amount are issued and dispatched to the claimants within a period of 15 days.

(g): The following measures are being taken to improve security arrangements at important and vulnerable railway stations:-

(1) Installation of Close Circuit Televisions at vulnerable Railway Stations.

(2) Modern security gadgets like Hand Held Metal Detectors, Door Frame Metal Detectors,Entry Scans / X-Rays Machines etc. to strengthen access control at entry / exit points.

(3) Dog Squads at various divisions and railway stations to conduct anti-sabotage checks.

(4) To upgrade training centers to improve quality of training to Railway Protection Force personnel.

(5) Intensive publicity and public awareness campaigns alerting and educating all passengers/public to remain vigilant against any unidentified/unclaimed suspicious objects lying on platforms, other premises or coaches and to report to RPF/GRP / Railway officials available nearby.

(6) Frequent announcements at all stations alerting passengers to be vigilant about suspicious movement of co-passengers and not to touch any suspicious luggage/bag especially in general compartments.

(7) Steps to prevent entry of unauthorized persons in trains and in empty coaching rakes at originating/destination stations, before and after placement in maintenance sidings.

(8) Close co-ordination with GRP / State Police / Central Intelligence agencies to prevent any untoward incident.